

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line, 21 and continuing to page 4 line 2, with the following paragraph.

Preferred macrolide-containing biomatter that can be a source of macrolide starting material for the practice of the present invention includes tacrolimus-containing biomatter, particularly fermentation broth obtainable by fermentation using a tacrolimus-producing microorganism, for example, *Streptomyces tsukubaensis*, new and mutated strains thereof, *Streptomyces hygroscopicus*, and *Streptomyces lividans*, as described in United States Patent numbers 4,894,366, 5,116,756, 5,624,842, 5,496,727, and 5,622,866, all of which are incorporated herein by reference. Sirolimus-containing (rapamycin-containing) biomatter is also a preferred macrolide-containing biomatter. Sirolimus (rapamycin) can be produced by fermentation of *Streptomyces hygroscopicus*, NRRL 5491, as described in United States Patent 3,993,749, incorporated herein by reference. Pimecrolimus-containing biomatter and everolimus-containing biomatter are also examples of preferred macrolide-containing biomatter for use in the practice of the method of the present invention. ~~Ascomycin-containing~~ Ascomycin-containing biomatter is also a preferred macrolide-containing biomatter for use in the practice of the present invention